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Letter dated 7 July 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions of my Government, and with a great sense of grief and bitterness, I wish to notify you and all members of the Council that the recently appointed Head of the Egyptian Mission to Iraq, H.E. Ambassador Ihab El Sherif, was killed today, Thursday, 7 July 2005, after four days of his kidnapping in Baghdad by a group of terrorists who claimed the responsibility for executing such a horrendous crime.

While Egypt continues to pursue every possible means to support the people of Iraq at this critical juncture of the country's political endeavours to maintain its national unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as to secure a successful implementation of the transitional political process endorsed by Security Council resolution 1546 (2004), it is regrettable that there still exist some groups who disrespect the sacredness of human life and insist on miscalculating their acts and misjudging the genuine role Egypt and other countries play in support of Iraq.

The Egyptian Government would like to assure the international community, as well as the people and Government of Iraq, that it remains committed in its support of the people of Iraq, and will continue to help preserve Iraq's national unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In this context, Mr. President, my Government looks forward to a strong message from the Security Council condemning the increasing surge of violence against foreign diplomats in Iraq, in particular the killing of Ambassador El Sherif.

I will be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Maged **Abdelaziz**

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